

## GRAND JURY TAKES UP STORE MURDER CANARD

Investigating Slander on Abraham & Straus That Has Stirred Brooklyn.

NO BASIS FOR THE YARN

Proprietors Issue Statement After Asking District Attorney to Act.

Witnesses were examined by the Kings county Grand Jury yesterday regarding a persistent and widespread rumor that a young woman employed in the Fulton street department store of Abraham & Straus had been murdered and her body discovered in a wire locker in the living street annex. The department store proprietors requested this action. The rumor, which started almost a month ago, was gaining headway.

It began trickling into newspaper offices, police stations and the District Attorney's office last month, but seemed to have no foundation in fact. Successive investigations proved. In some instances specific dates were given, together with circumstantial accounts of just how the girl had returned to her locker late in the afternoon, had been robbed, mistreated, murdered and jammed into the locker, to topple out on the girl who shared the locker when she opened it next day to put away her coat and hat. In only a few instances, however, were the names of any of the principals or their addresses given, and these were quickly proved false.

Among the witnesses who testified yesterday were Inspector Harkins, acting captain Coghlin and Detectives Roddy and Murray. The latter were assigned to the case early in September, when the first rumor reached Headquarters, and worked on it for about a month with only negative results. All four of the police officers said that they were able to find nothing that would indicate that crime of any kind had been committed.

The term of Abraham & Straus gave out a statement yesterday saying that the matter had been turned over to the authorities following the failure of a private investigation. The statement follows:

"For two weeks we have been trying to get to the bottom of the origin of a preposterous and utterly unfounded rumor that some one had been murdered or a body discovered in a locker in this store. We have opened our store to the investigation of police, coroner, district attorney, department and requested the authorities to help us to find out who started the slander or why it was started, all without result. After a thorough investigation on our account we found that no one was maliciously raising our store as a place of employment, that no one had been assaulted and that no body finding and nothing upon which to base in the slightest way the story of finding a body had occurred here at any time. All we could discover was that some one had spread the news and followed this up with anonymous letters.

We have not been able to find who started the slander and can find no motive for such maliciousness. The police, coroner and others have been investigating the matter day and night every authority in the city knows the thing to be absolutely false. The anonymous letter writing continues, however, and we believe in justice to all concerned the District Attorney should be asked to investigate the matter and make a thorough investigation.

Every one who has investigated the story realizes that the details given in the anonymous letters prove the whole slander to be merely malicious or the work, as some believe, of an insane person. It is extraordinary that so preposterous a story should have gained credence with so many people—but in justice to every one we have asked the District Attorney to take the matter up and make a thorough investigation.

One of the witnesses yesterday, Harry Klein of the Klein News Agency, was quizzed regarding a "tip" his concern sent out on September 23 in which it was said that two girls had been murdered in the department store, according to information received from a "reliable and trustworthy source." Mr. Klein, it is understood, testified that he had received the information from a friend and, after sending it out, had traced it back through three other persons. That was as far as he could go, he said.

Actions for slander or libel are promised by the firm if it can discover the person or persons who originated the rumor. The firm is making every effort yesterday, it is said, to get the matter down to the originator, having practically satisfied itself that there was no truth in the rumor.

FIREMEN CRUDED UNDER WALL

Exploding Tanks Spray Hoemen With Burning Oil.

Drug fumes handicapped the firemen at a blaze early yesterday morning in the factory of J. L. Hopkins & Co., manufacturing chemists at 477 to 487 Kap street, Williamsburg. The main building is a five-story brick structure and adjoining it was a three-story brick building. An explosion in the rear of the building near the Rodney street side started the fire. It was quickly followed by others among tanks of oil in the cellar. When the firemen arrived the flames had spread to the three-story building and were communicating to the two-story structure. Deputy Fire Chief Mahoney had two additional alarms turned in and Deputy Chief Lally turned in the fourth.

Soon after the fourth alarm Chief Keefe's men on saving the adjoining property. While the men were at work on the Rodney street side the wall fell. Joseph Reilly of Engine 116 had his left leg fractured and Fireman Frank Keating had his right ankle broken. Both were injured internally and were taken to hospitals. Others less seriously hurt were Patrick Condon, John Fitzgerald, Michael Graham, George Kriehel and Henry Borghardt. From time to time showers of oil were scattered over the firemen, who had their clothes afire. The fire did \$150,000 damage.

OWENS GOES A-SHOOTING.

Looks for the Carrolls and Hits a Saloon Patron.

Thomas Owens, a Democratic politician of the Fourteenth Assembly district in Williamsburg, was held in \$5,000 bail yesterday for a hearing on a charge of felonious assault and carrying a loaded revolver. He went into a saloon of Lawrence F. Carroll, a former Democratic Assembly district leader of Williamsburg, early yesterday looking for Carroll, against whom he entertained a political grudge. Then he demanded to see Daniel J. Carroll, son of Lawrence, who is a Democratic Senatorial candidate, could be found.

After denouncing the Carrolls, whom he formerly supported, he turned to William J. Dardie of 91 South Second street, produced a revolver and inflicted a flesh wound in Dardie's neck.

# Tomorrow

is your last opportunity to visit the

## Electrical Exposition and Automobile Show

This is your chance to see a great Exposition—the greatest of its kind ever held. Three large floors of working exhibits

**Manufacturers—will learn how to do things cheaper**  
**Business Men—will learn how to do things quicker**  
**Home Keepers—will learn how to do things easier**  
**All by the aid of Electricity**

**New Grand Central Palace**  
 Lexington Ave. and 46th St. Oct. 9-19  
 11 A.M. to 11 P.M.

**The New York Edison Company**  
 30 Years At Your Service

## ACTRESS SAYS HE PUSHED HER.

And When Magistrate Discharges Dodge She Threatens to Appeal.

ATLANTIC CITY, Oct. 17.—Capt. Frederick G. Dodge of the United States revenue service was before Magistrate Jagmetty this afternoon in the police court, accused by Miss Geanne Bayne of Alabama with having been guilty of simple assault. Miss Bayne alleged he "pushed her roughly" while she was entering the dining room of an apartment house.

The trouble grew out of a discussion of the shooting of Col. Roosevelt at breakfast when, it is alleged by the others, Miss Bayne made a remark that was resented by more than one person.

"Only a chorus girl," commented Mrs. Dodge, according to Miss Bayne's declaration, "which she told the Court was an untruth, inasmuch as she was an actress in the 'Maude Adams company'."

At the next meeting in the dining room Miss Bayne resented the remark by Mrs. Dodge. Then, she alleged, Capt. Dodge interfered.

Capt. Dodge said he did not lay his hands on the girl, but may have brushed her aside to enter the dining room. Other testimony was to the same effect and the court discharged him.

Miss Bayne has threatened to appeal the case, declaring that she was not only "pushed," but insulted.

"In the South they shoot people for these attacks," she said to the Magistrate, who admonished a conciliatory spirit.

Pine Beach Inn Not Burned.

LAKEWOOD, N. J., Oct. 17.—Fire which afterward proved to be a woods and swamp blaze was seen at Island Heights from the mainland on the evening of September 16. A report started that the fire was caused by the burning of the Pine Beach Inn at Island Heights, a matter of fact the fire was not at the inn nor was the hotel property damaged in any way.

AMUSEMENTS.

**CENTURY THEATRE**  
 62d St. Park West. Phone 8800. Co. 1.  
 "THE DAUGHTER OF HEAVEN"  
 "The Garden of Allah"

**LITTLE "ANATOL"**  
 45th St. and 4th Ave. Phone 1230.  
 "THE NEW SIN"

**Wallack's Theatre**  
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**NEW YORK'S LEADING THEATRES**

**EMPIRE** 14th St. and 4th Ave. Phone 8800. Co. 1.  
 "THE DAUGHTER OF HEAVEN"

**LYCEUM** 45th St. and 4th Ave. Phone 1230.  
 "THE NEW SIN"

**MISS BILLIE BURKE**  
 "THE MIND THE PLAY"

**CRITERION** 45th St. and 4th Ave. Phone 1230.  
 "THE NEW SIN"

**Tantalizing Tommy**  
 "The New Musical Comedy"

**GARRICK** 45th St. and 4th Ave. Phone 1230.  
 "THE NEW SIN"

**JOHN MASON** in the play  
 "The New Musical Comedy"

**HUDSON** 45th St. and 4th Ave. Phone 1230.  
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**ROBERT LORRAINE** in the play  
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**NEW AMSTERDAM** 45th St. and 4th Ave. Phone 1230.  
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**THE COUNT OF LUXEMBOURG**  
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**LIBERTY** 45th St. and 4th Ave. Phone 1230.  
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**MILESTONES**  
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**KNICKERBOCKER** 45th St. and 4th Ave. Phone 1230.  
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**MOULIN ROUGE**  
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**ZIEGFELD FOLLIES**  
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**GAITY** 45th St. and 4th Ave. Phone 1230.  
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**OFFICER 666**  
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